Another 'Surreptitious' Call

Martha Mitchell Happy Now

Post 7/3/72

By Helen Thomas
United Press International

Martha Mitchell said yesterday she is happy her husband got out of politics as she had demanded—but she made it clear she doesn't believe her troubles are over.

"I'm still a political prisoner," she said in a telephone call to this reporter. "I can't talk long. I am calling surreptitiously."

When pressed as to whether Mitchell's resignation Saturday as President Nixon's re-election campaign director had made her happy she said, "Sure, that's what I wanted."

When Mitchell resigned he cited responsibility to his wife and family as the reason.

Mrs. Mitchell said she was calling from her home in Washington's exclusive Watergate Apartments. She also said she wondered why no one had asked a question about her at President Nixon's news conference last week, adding, "I've been a prisoner for so long."

Then Mrs. Mitchell hung up the telephone abruptly.

After her husband resigned earlier this year as Attorney General to become chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, she called a reporter and made plain she was most unhappy that her husband was leaving the Cabinet to take up the political cudgels again.

A week ago Sunday, she called me and said she was leaving her husband "until he decides to leave" Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.